



**Minutes of Southern Energy Co-operative Ltd board meeting, 29 August 1998, 71
Franciscan Avenue, Frankston.**

Present: A.R. Gourley, Richard Greaves and David Griffiths

Minutes

That the minutes be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meetings of 3 August and 22 August 1998 and be signed by the Chairman.

M: Richard Greaves S: David Griffiths CARRIED

Draft letter to ORG re Distribution Code.

Resolved to endorse the letter to ORG on The Distribution Code - Finalising the Review.

M: David Griffiths S: Richard Greaves CARRIED

Cr. Mark Conroy, Liardet Ward

The Secretary reported that Cr. Mark Conroy had requested a meeting with a Shadow Minister on energy issues. While the Secretary had agreed to the meeting, it was subsequently canceled. He said that Conroy would not name the Shadow Minister.

Auditor

The Secretary reported that the auditor had been paid \$200.

Federation Subscriptions

There was discussion on a decision of the Federation to recommend an increase in subscription payments to its AGM on 15 October 1998. It was noted that this would involve increasing the co-operative's subscription by 100% - from \$50 to \$100.

The attached notes were discussed.

That the board agrees to oppose the increase of the minimum annual subscription to the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd from \$50 to \$100 and support the retention of \$50.

M: Richard Greaves S: A.R. Gourley CARRIED

David Griffiths declared an interest and abstained from voting on the resolution.

Distribution Pricing Review

It was noted that David Griffiths, Richard Greaves and A.R. Gourley would be attending the ORG distribution pricing review consultation on 16 September 1998.

Agribusiness Directors Seminar

It was noted that David Griffiths had attended the whole seminar and Richard Greaves the dinner.

LETS Conference

The Secretary reported that he had received no further information regarding the LETS conference.

Members

The Secretary reported that there had been no responses from Ruth Henderson and John Lloyd. He also reported that member George Fischer had telephoned and left a message to say that he was no longer interested.

Victorian Co-operative News

It was noted that Richard Greaves was preparing a proposed article for the Victorian Co-operative News on the Sydney water crisis and co-operatives.

Information

The Secretary provided directors with copies of the following:

The Co-operative News(UK) - Bring on the Co-op culture change (4 August 1998), Movement's 10m millennium salute (4 August 1998), Give our managers their own philosophy (11 August 1998), Task force to trigger credit union expansion (11 August 1998), Let's expand horizons of the Co-op Empire (28 July 1998) and Movement must face the facts - Burlton (21 July 1998) Trade and Industry-Second Report, UCAN Consumer Education In A New Electric Services World(20 March 1997), Battle calls emergency electricity meeting (29 May 1997), Power groups set to miss free market deadline (30 May 1997), United Utilities seeks tax relief on rates (30 May 1997), Eastern plugs windfall formula (1 June 1997), Distributors feel heat (30 May 1997) and United Utilities puts vase for low windfall tax (30 May 1997), Electric Restructuring Education Group CPUC (30 May 1997), Introducing Competition In ACT Electricity Retailing (December 1996), Deregulation and Buying Electricity in the National Market, Energy Australia Transgrid How do I get to make a choice of electricity supplier? (1997)

Federation Subscription Notes

Southern Energy Co-operative Ltd is a very small co-operative with 28 members.

We have a minimum income.

Last year our subscription to the Federation was \$50.

Our income for 1997 was \$508.

Our \$50 subscription, then, represented approximately 10% of our income.

Now it is being proposed that this \$50 subscription be increased 100% to \$100

If we had paid \$100 in 1997, then, this would have represented 20% of our income.

We don't might paying a higher subscription based on increased turnover.

We don't take much out of the Federation.

But, we do try to put in.

We are very conscious of our small subscription contribution and, therefore, we try to put in as much as we can to make a difference.

We have not sought to take up the time of the Federation's consultant, Mr Tony Gill, with queries and/or meetings.

Our contribution to the Federation cannot simply be measured by our subscription payment.

We purchased sets of the Federation's co-operative booklets for \$13.50

One of our directors attended the Agribusiness Directors Seminar for \$65

Since joining the Federation our delegate has attended the AGM

Two of our directors attended legislation seminars organised by the Federation.

Why is the Federation trying to discourage very small co-ops from joining - or remaining members.

What message is this giving very small co-ops?

Very few co-operatives in Victoria are members of the Federation.

Is it the intention of the Federation to perpetuate this situation.

This is why Southern Energy Co-operative is moving the following amendment:
That the subscription for co-operatives with an income between \$0-20,000 be \$50